



THE LONDON NAUTICAL SCHOOL

My most unforgettable memory during the years I was at LNS was during 1957. I had completed my G.C. of E and applied to 2 shipping companies for a Cadetship. They both unfortunately, did not have any vacancies so I decided to return to the school after the summer break into Class 6 with the possible intention of studying for the advanced G.C. of E.



However, one day whilst in the Navigation class Captain Harvey, a well-respected teacher at LNS, asked the 20 or so 16 year olds whether they wanted to go to sea. We all said yes so he asked for those who wanted to go to tankers to sit on the left of the classroom whilst those who wanted general cargo companies sit on the right. We all moved to our chosen position and he then opened a cupboard and pulled out a number of rolled up forms. These are for cargo companies he said, then proceeded to throw them one at a time to us guys on the right of the classroom!

The one I caught was an application to Andrew Weirs Shipping Company, the Bank Line, which I took home, filled out, forwarded to 21 Bury Street and was accepted. Within 2 weeks I flew out to West Africa to join my first ship; spent 14 years with Bank Line from Apprentice to Chief Officer during which time I learnt all there was to know about cargo vessels which proved extremely useful in furthering my career. Due to emigrating to South Africa I left Weirs, joined Safmarine where I spent 3 years as Chief Officer then 25 years as Master.

I visited London Nautical School last year and was so pleased to see my name on the Honours Board; obviously my time at LNS, 1952 to 1957, did my career the world of good and I will be forever grateful to the school.

Alan Smalden (2015)